

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10

SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00

INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /105 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2784

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY AHTISAARI'S STAFF

REF: PRETORIA 4502

1. WE HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH AHTISAARI NEED TO HANDLE PUBLIC COMMENTS WITH RESTRAINT. HE ASSURES US THAT HE HAS SOUGHT TO TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS, BUT NOTED THAT HIS GROUP WILL MAKE THEIR SHARE OF ERRORS. SOUTH AFRICANS WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO EXPECT THESE AND KEEP THEIR EYE ON THE LARGE PICTURE. AHTISAARI SAYS HE HAS TRIED TO DO THE SAME WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH AFRICA.

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2. AS FOR THE INCLUSION OF STAFFERS ELIZABETH LANDIS (AND PERHAPS THORNBERRY AND BOMANI) AHTISAARI HAS TURNED THIS QUESTION OVER FOR SOMETIME. HIS CONCLUSION APPARENTLY IS THAT HE WOULD HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME FINDING PEOPLE WITH NO VIEWS ON SOUTH AFRICA; THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE AND THAT ANY STAFFER WHO STRAYS FROM INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE DISMISSED.

3. SO FAR THE SAG HAS NOT RAISED STAFFING WITH AHTISAARI.
IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT EKSTEEN AND AHTISAARI HAVE
DISCUSSED THE SITUATION INFORMALLY. HOPEFULLY AHTISAARI'S
RELATIONS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS WILL CONTINUE AS SMOOTHLY
IN THE FUTURE AS THEY HAVE BEEN SO FAR. YOUNG

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